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## VERMONT SHARES NATIONAL COUNCIL'S DEFINITION OF CAREER READINESS

MONTPELIER – The [Career Readiness Partner Council](#), a broad-based coalition of education, business, philanthropic, and policy groups, have come together to clearly define what it means for students to be “career ready.”

The Council recently published [Building Blocks For Change: What it Means to be Career Ready](#) ([www.careerreadynow.org](http://www.careerreadynow.org)). The Council is led by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc), of which John Fischer, Vermont’s Deputy Commissioner of Education, is Vice President.

The Council’s career-readiness statement is aligned with Common Core State Standards, standards that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school college- and career-ready. The Council’s comprehensive vision brings career readiness to a new level. Further, the Council’s definition has been endorsed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, of which Vermont is a governing member. Smarter Balanced assessments will be implemented in the 2014-15 school year.

“This description of career readiness aligns with our efforts in Vermont to create innovative and flexible pathways of learning for students, leading to a readiness level which is defined through multiple measures of proficiency,” said Deputy Commissioner Fischer.

The Council emphasizes the importance of developing programs that prepare students for the global economy:

Career readiness also requires a comprehensive system of supports that deliver learning when it is needed, where it is needed, how it is needed and by a cadre of experts that includes teachers and career professionals. It includes both classroom and workplace experiences, high-quality standards and instructional materials to support learning, a portfolio of assessments that gauge progress using multiple measures along a continuum from being not at all career ready to fully career ready, and finally a policy and funding structure that is aligned across K-12, higher education and business and industry sectors.

“The notion of college and career readiness must be broadened, shifting from its primary focus on college entrance and completion to include a mastery of key knowledge, skills and dispositions that students must foster throughout the life of their careers,” said Kimberly Green, NASDCTEc Executive Director.

The Career Readiness Partner Council brings varying perspectives and voices together to work toward the same goal – to create a clear, unified, and focused vision of what it means for students to be career ready. Council members include:

- [Achieve](#)
- [Alliance for Excellent Education](#)
- [American Association of Community Colleges](#)
- [American School Counselor Association](#)
- [America’s Promise Alliance](#)
- [Asia Society](#)
- [ASCD](#)
- [Association for Career and Technical Education](#)
- [Business-Higher Education Forum](#)
- [ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career](#)
- [Corporate Voices for Working Families](#)
- [Council of Chief State School Officers](#)
- [The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation](#)
- [Ford Motor Company Fund](#)
- [Gallup](#)
- [James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy](#)
- [The Manufacturing Institute](#)
- [National Academy Foundation](#)
- [National Association of State Boards of Education](#)
- [National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium](#)
- [National Council of La Raza](#)
- [National Education Association](#)
- [National Governors Association](#)
- [National League of Cities](#)
- [National Youth Employment Coalition](#)
- [Skills for America’s Future, The Aspen Institute](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#)

John Fischer, Vermont’s Deputy Commissioner of Education and Vice President of the Board of Directors of NASDCTEc, is available to answer questions at (802) 828-0488 or [john.fischer@state.vt.us](mailto:john.fischer@state.vt.us).